



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## ‘Choice to Remain Unrepresented’ Under Attack *President Obama’s NLRB Schemes to Bolster Monopolistic Unionism*

Seventy-five years ago, in unusually blunt testimony before a U.S. House panel, Joseph Padway, general counsel of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), a precursor to today’s AFL-CIO, complained how federal laws and the bureaucrats implementing them weren’t doing enough to promote union monopolies.

In particular, Mr. Padway bemoaned the fact that U.S. labor law “does not require employees in a plant to select a [union] bargaining agent, if they do not want to.”

Employees’ only choice, Mr. Padway clearly indicated, should be over which set of union officials get “exclusive” (monopoly) bargaining power to negotiate their wages, benefits, and work rules.

### Radical Ex-Union Lawyers Now Hold Three of the Five Seats on the Obama NLRB

More than 50 years later, during the 1990’s, union lawyer Craig Becker favorably cited Mr. Padway’s 1939 statement in his writings for academic and “labor studies” journals. In Mr. Becker’s ideal world, employees would have no individual or collective “choice to remain unrepresented.”

And in March 2010, President Barack Obama did the bidding of the union hierarchy by “recess” appointing Mr. Becker to the powerful National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Today, thanks to strong grassroots opposition, largely mobilized by the National Right to Work Committee, to



CREDIT: NETRIGHTDAILY.COM

**Top AFL-CIO lawyer and former NLRB member Craig Becker has publicly complained that U.S. labor law does not**

**“mandate” union monopoly bargaining. Now the Obama NLRB is seeking to “fix” the law bureaucratically.**

efforts by union-label Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to secure him a full-term appointment, Mr. Becker is no longer on the NLRB. Instead, since 2012, he has been co-general counsel to the AFL-CIO.

And this spring the Obama NLRB is ready to take several steps towards implementing Mr. Becker’s extremist vision of what federal labor policy should be.

Last month the NLRB, now made up entirely of members selected by Mr. Obama, held a pro forma two-day hearing on its pending proposal to impose sweeping changes to decades-old procedures under which Big Labor may obtain monopoly control over workers.

Compelling objections to this “ambush election” scheme were raised at the hearing by a National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorney and several other witnesses, as well as in public comments made over the past few months by thousands of Right to Work members and other citizens.

Of course, nothing any pro-Right to Work American says is likely to make any meaningful difference to the three radical ex-union lawyers who now constitute a majority of the five-member NLRB--Chairman Mark Pearce, Kent Hirozawa, and former AFL-CIO Associate General Counsel Nancy Schiffer.

*See Workers' Rights page 2*

# Workers' Rights Threatened by NLRB

Continued from page 1

The proposed changes to procedures for NLRB certification that the Pearce-Hirozawa-Schiffer team will almost inevitably rubber-stamp within months, if not weeks, would, for starters, sharply reduce the current median time frame of 38 days between the filing of a petition and the conduct of a union election.

## Employees Will Be Denied the Opportunity to Hear Both Sides of the Story Before Voting

One consequence of such a change, as former NLRB member and Right to Work supporter Peter Kirsanow has put it, will be to “utterly and completely deprive employers of their ability to communicate vital information to their employees regarding their rights and the effects of unionization.”

Of course, once employers are denied enough time to make their case, employees will *ipso facto* be denied the opportunity to hear both sides of the story before voting on unionization.

But employees’ “underlying” statutory right “to receive information opposing unionization,” as then-Justice John Paul Stevens characterized it in a 2008 majority opinion for the U.S. Supreme Court, is hardly the only employee right threatened

by the Obama NLRB’s “ambush” election scheme.

As Foundation attorney Bill Messenger pointed out to NLRB members in his testimony April 11, during a union certification campaign it can take some time for employees to decide if they want to campaign against unionization, how to do it, and what to say to their coworkers.

Consequently, under the Obama NLRB’s proposed new rules, many elections will be over before employees can fully exercise their rights under Sec. 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to engage in concerted activities with likeminded coworkers and to speak against unionization.

## Employers Will Be Forced to Hand Employee Phone Numbers to Union Dons

Another proposed rule that the Obama NLRB is expected to green-light soon mandates that employers hand over employee phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and work schedules to union organizers.

Employers will be required to hand over to union organizers the personal information of all employees who potentially may be unionized, including

even employees who expressly ask their employer not to do it.

In itself, this rule is a serious infringement on employees’ right to personal privacy.

And, as Mr. Messenger noted in his testimony, it also opens the door for misuse of this personal information by union supporters and third parties. For example, he said, the information could be misused by a union supporter to harass a coworker whom he does not like with late night phone calls or e-mail spam, or to make unwanted advances on a female coworker he does not like.

## Incremental 2011 Bid to Impose ‘Ambush’ Elections Was Rejected in Court

Craig Becker actually succeeded in launching the bureaucratic scheme to gut workers’ “choice to remain unrepresented” in late 2011, when he and Chairman Pearce rammed through a rule sharply curtailing the time frame for union certification drives.

Fortunately, a federal court later found that the NLRB had illicitly adopted this rule without a proper quorum, and, consequently, the rule was invalid.


“National Right to Work Committee members and other freedom-loving Americans deserve a lot of credit for having held up Obama NLRB nominees in the Senate throughout most of the President’s first term,” commented Committee President Mark Mix.

“Grassroots Right to Work activism is the reason there wasn’t a radical pro-forced unionism quorum on the NLRB to carry out a regulatory rewrite of federal labor law until quite recently.

“Unfortunately, for the near future it is going to be extraordinarily difficult to stop this regulatory rewrite from moving ahead at full speed.

“Of course, many Republicans in Congress, and GOP House leaders in particular, have been sharply critical of the Obama NLRB’s excesses.

“But up to now GOP leaders have not had the stomach to use by far the most effective tool at their disposal, the power of the purse string, to stop NLRB bureaucrats in their tracks.

“Because GOP leaders have not had the will so far to refuse to pass legislation funding the NLRB unless the agency’s attacks on Right to Work cease, those attacks are almost certain to continue at least through the end of this year.” 



Ever since President Obama first took office, AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka (left) and other union bosses have been

anticipating a pro-union monopoly revamp of federal labor law. Now the moment has apparently come.

# Tax Burdens Lighter in Right to Work States

## Households in High-Cost Forced-Unionism States ‘Get Socked Twice’

Early last month, the nonpartisan, Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation announced its estimate that “Tax Freedom Day” (TFD) this year would come on April 21.

The Tax Foundation’s entire published analysis is available at <http://taxfoundation.org/article/tax-freedom-day-2014-april-21-three-days-later-last-year> on the Internet.

As the Tax Foundation explains, TFD is “the day when the nation as a whole has earned enough money to pay its total tax bill for the year.”

In 2014, “Americans will pay \$3 trillion in federal taxes and \$1.5 trillion in state [and local] taxes, for a total tax bill of \$4.5 trillion, or 30.2 percent of income.”

### Right to Work State Residents Achieved ‘Tax Freedom’ on April 14

Not surprisingly, this burden is not borne equally by all Americans, and regional factors play a significant role in determining when TFD comes for individual taxpayers and households.

The Tax Foundation puts it this way: “The total tax burden borne by residents of different states varies considerably due to differing state tax policies and because of the progressivity of the federal tax system.”

Shortly after the Tax Foundation issued its report on TFD 2014, the National Institute for Labor Relations Research -- the “think tank” of the Right to Work movement -- calculated average TFD’s for the 24 Right to Work states and the 26 forced-unionism states.

To derive average TFD’s for states where compulsory union dues are either permitted or banned, the Institute took aggregate state personal income data for 2013 as reported by the U.S. Commerce Department and the estimated 2014 TFD’s for the 50 states as reported by the Tax Foundation.

The Institute estimates that this year residents of forced-unionism states will have to fork over 31.9% of their total personal income in taxes, a 5.6% higher share than the national average, and a



CREDIT: AP

### Forced dues bankroll the campaigns of tax-hiking Big Labor politicians like Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn.

12.9% higher share than the Right to Work state average.

TFD in forced-unionism states as a group didn’t come until April 27 this year, or six days later than the national average. In contrast, TFD in Right to Work states as a group came on April 14, or seven days earlier than the national average.

### Lower Living Costs Are Key Right to Work State Advantages

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen commented:

“TFD consistently comes significantly earlier in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states in part because state and local taxes typically consume a smaller share of income in jurisdictions

where unionism is voluntary.

“Another advantage for Right to Work states is their lower living costs.”

As the Institute reported in February, interstate cost-of-living indices calculated by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center show that on average forced-unionism states were 21% more expensive to live in than Right to Work states in 2013.

When cost of living differences are taken into account, the average disposable income (as well as average personal income) per capita in Right to Work states is higher than in forced-unionism states.

However, progressive federal income taxes are levied on nominal, rather than cost of living-adjusted incomes.

Consequently, explained Mr. Leen, households in high-cost forced-unionism states like California, New York, and New Jersey and in New England “get socked twice.”

“They have to fork over more for housing, food, energy, health care, and other necessities,” Mr. Leen noted.

“And then they have to pay the same income tax rate as a household in a low-cost Right to Work state like Texas or North Carolina making the same nominal income, even though that nominal income goes much further in the Right to Work states.”

The TFD disparity, concluded Mr. Leen, is a prime example of how the forced-unionism system hurts practically everyone, and not just employees and firm owners who are directly affected. 📌

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# Union Bosses ‘Go to Bat For Accused Rapist’

## *Prison Guard Remains on Government Payroll as He Awaits Trial*

“It’s a bad idea to employ a fox to guard a henhouse. It’s worse to keep employing the alleged fox after you have found reason to pay off his alleged victims.”

To ordinary Americans, the above observations, which led off an April 8 editorial in the *Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal*, may appear to be mere common sense.

Unfortunately, in states with laws on the books granting government union bosses broad monopoly-bargaining privileges over civil servants, common sense in public-sector labor-management relations isn’t just uncommon. It’s frequently illegal.

### **Gov. Bill Richardson Signed New Mexico Monopoly-Bargaining Law in 2003**

Eleven years ago this past March, Big Labor politician Bill Richardson, then New Mexico’s governor, signed a law imposing so-called “exclusive” union bargaining on state and local public servants, including teachers.

Under this statute, officials of massive government unions like the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME/AFL-CIO) are empowered to speak for union members and nonmembers alike in negotiations with government agencies over employee pay, benefits, and work rules.

Effectively, changes in the rules for how employees are managed cannot occur without government union bosses’ acquiescence. The consequences of giving Big Labor this inordinate power have been bad for taxpayers, conscientious public employees, and many other New Mexicans.

The matter of Torry Chambers, a prison guard at the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) in Bernalillo County (part of the Albuquerque metropolitan area) is a case in point.

In 2012, Bernalillo County agreed to a nearly \$1 million settlement with three female MDC inmates who had accused Mr. Chambers of rape. Two more alleged rape victims have come forward since.

Nevertheless, today he is still on the MDC’s taxpayer-funded payroll as he awaits trial on eight counts of rape and helping a male inmate commit rape.



CREDIT: MIKE DISHARON/CREATIVE COMMONS

**The monopoly-bargaining law signed by then-Gov. Bill Richardson in 2003 has for years helped a prison guard,**

**who now faces trial on multiple counts of rape, avoid being fired or put on unpaid leave.**

The county did try to move Mr. Chambers out of his job in 2011, after the original accusations were made. But it failed, and local officials now seem to have given up.

The reason for the failure was the zealous opposition of AFSCME officers. Wielding their statutory monopoly-bargaining power, AFSCME union bosses “successfully filed a grievance, and [Mr. Chambers] was moved to an all-male unit where he remained until September 2013,” as a March 31 *Journal* editorial reported.

### **‘Moving an Accused Rapist Away From His Prey’ Requires Union-Boss Approval**

At that time, another female inmate accused him of rape, and he was put on paid leave. The MDC wanted to put him on unpaid leave, but backed off when AFSCME chiefs invoked a union contract clause prohibiting unpaid leave.

As the March 31 editorial correctly observed, in New Mexico today “moving an accused rapist away from his prey and off the payroll is subject to union negotiations.”

“‘Union Goes to Bat For Accused Rapist,’ the headline of one of the *Albuquerque Journal* editorials on the Torry Chambers case, gets it right with regard to the AFSCME brass,” said

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.


“But I don’t think the headline is fair with regard to the union rank-and-file.”

### **Honest Workers Can’t Really Even Distance Themselves From Callous AFSCME Dons**

Mr. Mix explained: “It’s safe to assume that many conscientious MDC employees are outraged by the fact that union officials who purport to ‘represent’ them are using every legal tactic available to help ensure that a man who is now set to go on trial for raping inmates remains on the public payroll for as long as possible.

“But under New Mexico’s monopoly-bargaining law it is impossible for employees to protest AFSCME bosses’ callous cynicism by withdrawing from the union and representing themselves.

“No wonder so many public employees in states where the right not to join a government union remains fully protected want nothing to do with the AFSCME union.

“Retaining protections for such employees’ Right to Work and extending these protections to employees who are currently conscripted into a union are key objectives of the National Right to Work Committee and its three million members.” 

# Forced Dues-Funded Political Army Ready to March

## *In Election Season, Union Officers, Staff Can Campaign Full Time*

In the 2013-2014 election cycle, Big Labor bosses will likely pump even more money, most of it from their forced-union-dues treasuries, into politics and lobbying than the \$1.7 billion they are estimated to have spent in 2011-2012.

This fall, AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) czarina Mary K. Henry, and other union chiefs are especially determined to punish state legislators and executive officials who have rolled back their monopolistic special privileges in recent years.

Union kingpins are also prepared to use every trick in the book to retain their control over the U.S. Senate and at least hold their ground in the U.S. House, despite a national electorate that is perhaps more skeptical than ever before of Big Labor and its allied politicians.

### Neck Deep Into Politics

Just like in 2012, in the last few weeks before Election Day 2014, there will be hundreds of thousands of union-label volunteers combing neighborhood after neighborhood in state after state to get out the vote for pro-forced unionism candidates.

Of course, the union bosses' "volunteers" will be spearheaded by thousands and thousands of paid union operatives.

How can Big Labor afford to invest so heavily in politics? Forced dues make it possible for unions that file federal LM-2 and LM-3 disclosure reports with the U.S. Labor Department to spend nearly \$3.8 billion a year, or *\$14.4 million per working day*, on salaries and other cash compensation (not including benefits) for union officers and staff members.

In non-election years, union professionals fill their days infiltrating businesses in every state, stirring up hate-the-boss strife among workers.

But during election season, this army is transformed into a full-time political operation. Union officials run phone banks and get-out-the-vote drives, prepare campaign mailings, and walk precincts.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King commented:

"No other type of nonprofit organization has a large enough payroll to make 'in-kind' political contributions of

anywhere near the magnitude that federal disclosure-filing unions' roughly 157,000 paid officers and staff are able to make."

### Other Types of Nonprofits, Businesses Can't Compete With Union Political Machine

Ms. King continued: "There is no parallel political army in the business world, either, since business owners and profit-minded shareholders rarely if ever are willing to release their managers from normal business for months on end so they can politick full time.

"Fortunately, the Right to Work Committee's candidate survey program, even though its budget represents only a tiny fraction of what Big Labor spends on electioneering and lobbying, does offer an effective counterbalance to the forced-dues political machine."


As many Committee members know, the federal and state survey programs ask candidates to commit themselves to oppose forced unionism and support national or state Right to Work legislation if elected.

Candidates are given several chances to return their surveys and answer 100% in favor of Right to Work.

And millions of grassroots Right to Work supporters are mobilized to lobby candidates to respond to their Right to Work surveys.

"In the federal program, all major-party candidates as well as key significant third-party candidates in every U.S. Senate and House race are being asked to participate in the Committee's Survey 2014," said Ms. King.

"And pro-Right to Work citizens in every state where there's a Senate race and in every House district are being contacted and requested to help turn up the pressure on their candidates to respond to their surveys.

"The Right to Work survey program has been and will continue to be extraordinarily successful in part because the vast majority of American voters oppose compulsory unionism. That's a stubborn fact that the union bosses, for all their money and manpower, simply can't get around." 



Big Labor's government-granted privilege to collect forced dues and fees from union members and nonmembers

alike has enabled power-hungry union officials to build the most massive political machine in the U.S.

# UNITE HERE Members Pay For Union Bosses' Flub

## *Will a Strike Hit Las Vegas Just So Big Labor Can Save Face?*

Several times last month, President Obama performed victory dances in celebration of the mounting number of reported sign-ups (now said to be roughly eight million) for health insurance exchanges established by the so-called "Affordable Care Act" (ACA).

Notwithstanding the President's crowing, across the country countless millions of employees and business owners are being harmed by the ACA, otherwise known as Obamacare.

Specifically, many are struggling to deal with rapidly rising health-insurance costs foisted on them by the ACA itself and by its bureaucratic implementation.

### **Were It Not For Big Labor's Forced-Dues Machine, ACA Wouldn't Be the Law Today**

As both national and local union bosses of the UNITE HERE union, which wields monopoly bargaining power over hundreds of thousands of front-line employees in the casino-and-hospitality industry, freely acknowledge, ACA-spawned problems have been especially severe for employees in this industry.

And Nevada, in which the casino-and-

hospitality industry employs a far higher share of the workforce than in any other state in the country, is the epicenter of this government-created mess.

To continue furnishing employees with health-insurance benefits roughly as good as they have had in the past will cost Las Vegas hotels, restaurants and casinos a lot more in the post-ACA world than it did before.

A contract offer now on the table from a coalition of unionized hotels and casinos would require employees represented by Culinary Local 226 and Bartenders Local 165 to pay a portion of the increased health-insurance costs brought about by the ACA.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad recalled the history of this law:

"Of course, the ACA wouldn't be the law of the land today were it not for the fact that top union bosses put their forced union dues-fueled lobbying machine at full throttle four years ago to ensure that Obamacare would pass through Congress despite the American people's strong opposition.

"Among the union bigwigs leading the charge were the chieftains of UNITE

HERE, the parent union of Culinary Local 226 and Bartenders Local 165."

As a *Las Vegas Review Journal* editorial appearing April 2 explained, culinary and bartenders union bosses are very reluctant to face accountability with the union rank-and-file for having helped President Obama ram through a law that now stands to cut deep into worker paychecks.

Instead, culinary and bartenders union bosses want someone else to "bear the cost of the union's big mistake."

### **Strike Would Hurt Workers Even More Than It Would Businesses, City Economy**

The consequence of union bosses' unwillingness to let their members feel the brunt of the union-label ACA's exorbitant cost could be a strike that shuts down hotels, restaurants, and casinos across downtown Las Vegas.


"Of course, a strike would hurt workers even more than it would businesses and the city economy on the whole," said Mr. Mourad.

"It remains to be seen whether downtown housekeepers and restaurant workers will actually be willing to help union chiefs save face by walking off their jobs.

"But what's already clear is that, one way or the other, Las Vegas' hospitality industry employees are about to take it on the chin as a result of UNITE HERE and other union bosses' successful deployment of their forced dues-funded political army to pass Obamacare in 2010."

To prevent similar injustices from being visited on workers in the future, National Right to Work Committee members across the country are now pushing for roll-call votes on, and ultimately passage of, the National Right to Work Act (H.R.946/S.204).

"By prohibiting forced union dues, H.R.946/S.204 would surely have blocked passage of the ACA had it been on the books four years ago," said Mr. Mourad.

"And it can without a doubt thwart enactment of more worker-harming Big Labor legislative power grabs in the future." 



CREDIT: BLOG.VEGAS.COM

Whether a threatened Las Vegas hospitality industry strike occurs or not, industry employees are about to

take it on the chin as a result of union bosses' successful campaign to pass Obamacare in 2010.

# 'Siren Song' Entices GOP Insiders

Continued from page 8

Like Mr. LaTourette, Mr. Simpson pledged to support a national Right to Work law when he first ran for Congress. And also like Mr. LaTourette, Mr. Simpson welched on this promise after he evidently decided he could do so safely.

In the GOP primary scheduled for May 20, Mr. Simpson faces a potentially difficult race against attorney Bryan Smith.

Grassroots Committee activists are taking the opportunity to convince Mr. Simpson to at last make good on his years-old vow to cosponsor forced-dues repeal. In response to citizens' requests, Mr. Smith has already pledged to support Right to Work if elected.

## Do Big Labor Appeasers Have the Ear of Key House Republican Leaders?

Since, despite all the political machinations of Steve LaTourette and his ilk, support for Right to Work within the House and Senate GOP caucuses has steadily grown over the past two decades, some Newsletter readers may wonder if the various "Main Street" fronts for Big Labor

constitute a serious danger.

Unfortunately, if recent news reports are correct in stating that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) attended the MSP's annual gathering on Florida's picturesque Amelia Island on Palm Sunday weekend, it seems imprudent to dismiss this group as marginal.

"For decades, Republican politicians inside the D.C. Beltway have been strangely susceptible to the siren song of forced-unionism appeasement," said Mr. Mix.

"One of the most remarkable illustrations of what I'm talking about dates back to 1986, when Idahoans were just a few days away from defeating a Big Labor scheme to overturn the Gem State's then-fledgling Right to Work law in a 54%-46% statewide ballot.

"In the October 28, 1986, edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, then senior Idaho U.S. Sen. Jim McClure, a Republican who has since passed away, was quoted as saying, with regard to Right to Work:

"I've urged Republicans not to raise the issue for years.

"I think it's a bad political issue for us and it's a real motivational issue for

union people.'

"What actually happened is that the Right to Work issue carried Idaho's staunchly anti-forced unionism junior U.S. Sen. Steve Symms [R] to reelection in a very difficult race. Meanwhile, Idaho's Republican gubernatorial nominee that year, David Leroy, tried to distance himself from Right to Work, and lost.

"After the 1986 elections were over, Mr. McClure was perceptive and gracious enough to admit he had been dead wrong. But in Washington D.C., establishment Republicans apparently learned nothing, and it seems most never will."

## Big Labor Threats to Punish Right to Work Allies Repeatedly Prove to Be Empty

That there is still no meaningful foundation for claims by Steve LaTourette and other Big Labor shills that opposition to forced unionism is somehow politically detrimental was very evident in the 2012 election cycle.

Early that year, the GOP-controlled Indiana House and Senate infuriated the union brass by passing the 23rd state Right to Work law.

In a January 31 newspaper interview, national AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka vowed that elected officials and candidates who had supported Right to Work would "pay a price at the polls."

In reality, five pro-Right to Work Republicans targeted by the union brass in primaries that spring were all re-elected. Two anti-Right to Work candidates seeking GOP nominations for "open" House seats were thrashed at the polls.

In the fall 2012 elections, the GOP state Senate and state House majorities in Indiana both expanded, and by a full nine seats in the case of the House.

"National Right to Work members would prefer, of course, to have principled allies in both major parties in Congress, but as long as Big Labor retains its current near-absolute stranglehold over the national Democratic Party, we will take support from the elected officials who offer it," said Mr. Mix.

"History shows again and again that politicians help themselves by unabashedly supporting Right to Work. And GOP leaders like Eric Cantor and Kevin McCarthy will surely hurt themselves most of all if they ignore the lessons of history." 📌



CREDIT: LYNN ISCHAY/PLAIN DEALER (CLEVELAND, OHIO)

Big Labor power broker Steve LaTourette is eager to reverse a decades-long trend towards greater

support for the Right to Work among congressional Republicans. Naturally, he can't admit it's a winning issue.

# Ex-GOP Congressman Still Shills For Big Labor

## *Right to Work Electoral Wins Give the Lie to Steve LaTourette*

Two decades ago, when he defeated Big Labor Democratic incumbent Eric Fingerhut to capture a U.S. House seat representing a northeastern Ohio district, GOP politician Steve LaTourette pledged to freedom-loving citizens in the Buckeye State that he would support a national Right to Work law.

Running for reelection successfully two years later, Mr. LaTourette explicitly promised not just to support, but also to cosponsor and seek roll-call votes on federal forced-dues repeal.

After a few years in Congress, however, Mr. LaTourette threw his campaign promises down the memory hole and became one of Big Labor's most obsequious appeasers in the Republican Party.

And Mr. LaTourette's unabashed advocacy of union bosses' monopolistic special privileges became more and more valuable to them as he gained seniority on Capitol Hill.

For example, in May 2011, during Mr. LaTourette's last House term, pro-Right to Work members of the House Appropriations Committee attached an amendment to a spending bill that would have prohibited union-only "project labor agreements" (PLAs) on military, VA, and other construction funded through the measure.

On the House floor the following month, Mr. LaTourette sponsored an amendment to strip the pro-Right to Work provision from the spending bill (H.R.2055).

On June 13, 2011, fewer than 12% of the 229 Republicans present and voting on the anti-Right to Work, pro-PLA LaTourette amendment sided with Big Labor. But along with 177 pro-coercion Democrats' votes that was enough for union lobbyists to grab a 204-203 victory.

### **So-Called 'Defending Main Street' SuperPAC a Front Operation For Union Barons**

In late July 2012, Mr. LaTourette suddenly announced he would not seek reelection to his seat, which by then had expanded southward to include all of Geauga County and northern parts of Trumbull and Portage Counties. Ohio GOP officials were left in the lurch,

though they ultimately managed to hold the seat.

Meanwhile, Mr. LaTourette wasted no time in leveraging his congressional track record as one of Big Labor's most predictable Republican allies to launch what is undoubtedly a lucrative lobbying business.

He now heads up the so-called "Main Street Partnership" (MSP), which, as pundit Michelle Malkin skeptically observed in a column published early this year, "claims to represent 'thoughtful,' 'pragmatic' 'common sense' and 'centrist' Republican leadership."

But the reality behind the MSP's blandly pleasant words is apparent from a Cleveland *Plain Dealer* analysis of the funding sources of an MSP satellite personally founded by Mr. LaTourette that is known as the "Defending Main Street SuperPAC."

As *Plain Dealer* D.C. reporter Sabrina Eaton wrote on April 11, records uncovered by her newspaper show that in 2013 the LaTourette SuperPAC raked in \$250,000 apiece from bosses of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and from "Working for Working Americans," a construction union SuperPAC.

Ms. Eaton added that the LaTourette SuperPAC had also gratefully accepted

\$150,000 from Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) bosses and \$100,000 from a LIUNA satellite known as the "Laborers' League Political Education Fund."

### **Aims to Maintain, Expand Clout of Anti-Right to Work Congressional GOP**

Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee, reasoned:

"LIUNA, IUOE and other Big Labor bosses who deploy the overwhelming majority of their reported and unreported political contributions to help union-label Democratic candidates aren't shoveling all that money into the LaTourette Super PAC because they've suddenly changed their political stripes.

"The union chieftains' obvious goal here is to shield anti-Right to Work Republican members of Congress from the wrath of GOP primary voters, who oppose compulsory unionism even more lopsidedly than does the public as a whole."

In fact, as this edition of the National Right to Work Newsletter goes to press, the LaTourette SuperPAC has already reportedly spent \$200,000 to aid the re-election campaign of Idaho Republican Congressman Mike Simpson.

See 'Siren Song' page 7



House GOP leaders Eric Cantor (inset left) and Kevin McCarthy allegedly went to Florida last month to powwow

with the so-called "Main Street Partnership." Union bosses are clearly the senior partners in this outfit.

CREDIT: CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER